

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ROME 02094 131526Z

73

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 SAJ-01 NIC-01 DRC-01 /107 W

----- 016635

R 131425Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3254

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

S E C R E T ROME 2094

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR SGEN VT HU CZ

SUBJECT: VATICAN-CZECH RELATIONS

REF: PRAGUE 274

1. ACCORDING TO RELIABLE VATICAN SOURCE, CZECH GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN PRESSING VATICAN FOR RESUMPTION OF BILATERAL TALKS BROKEN OFF LAST SPRING. BASED ON SHABBY PERFORMANCE OF GOC LAST YEAR, ESPECIALLY FAILURE PROPERLY TO COMPLY WITH TERMS OF ANNOUNCING SEVERAL BISHOPS' RESIGNATION FROM PACEM IN TERRIS, VATICAN OT RUSHING TO ACCEPT INVITATION. NEVERTHELESS, SOURCE FEELS SOMETHING MIGHT GIVE LATER THIS YEAR.

2. VATICAN WELL AWARE GOC MOST ANXIOUS TO HAVE SUFFRAGEN DIOCESES OF KOSICE AND ROZNAVA SEVERED FROM THEIR METROPOLITAN SEE AT ESZTERGOM. VATICAN TELLS US THIS IS PROBLEM THEY HAVE BEEN HOPING TO SOLVE SINCE DISSOLUTION OF DUAL MONARCHY IN 1918. EXPONENTS OF HUNGARIAN NATIONALISM, ESPOUSING DOCTRINE OF LANDS UNDER CROWN OF ST. STEPHEN, HAVE ALWAYS OPPOSED THIS RATIONALIZATION OF CHURCH BOUNDARIES AND, BETWEEN WARS, THE CZECH GOVERNMENT UNDER PRESIDENT MASARYK PRACTICED STRICT POLICY OF SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE, TAKING NO INTEREST IN MATTER. ONE VATICAN SOURCE ALSO NOTED THAT IN PERIOD BETWEEN WARS THERE WERE CONSIDER-

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 ROME 02094 131526Z

ABLE NUMBER OF POWERFUL HUNGARIAN FUNCTIONARIES IN VATICAN WHO

SUCCESSFULLY DISSUADED HOLY SEE FROM TAKING DECISION WHICH, IN ABSENCE OF GOC PRESSURE AT TIME, NOT DIFFICULT TO DO. CARDINAL MINDSZENTY QUITE EXPECTEDLY HAS ALWAYS OPPOSED REMOVAL OF KOSIZE AND ROZNAVA FROM UNDER HIS JURISDICTION. ACTUALLY, BULK OF ARCHDIOCESE OF ESZTERGOM FALLS WITHIN SLOVAKIA WITH SOME 460 PARISHES, WHILE ONLY 60-70 ARE WITHIN HUNGARY. WITH MINDSZENTY OUT OF PICTURE, OUR SOURCES INFORM US, HOLY SEE IS QUITE WILLING TO MAKE NECESSARY DIVISION, PARTICULARLY SINCE NEW APOSTOLIC ADMINISTRATOR OF ESZTERGOM, MSGR. LEKAI, AS WELL AS MAJORITY OF HUNGARIAN HIERARCHY HAVE NO OBJECTIONS. TIMING OF REGULARIZATION THESE TWO DIOCESAN BORDERS, AS WELL AS CHOICE OF NEW BISHOPS, WILL NO DOUBT BE SETTLED IN ANY EVENTUAL VATICAN-CZECHOSLOVAK TALKS. VOLPE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CATHOLICS, RELIGIOUS LEADERS, CHURCH STATE RELATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ROME02094
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740235/aaaabhae.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: PRAGUE 274
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 MAY 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <23-Sep-2002 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VATICAN-CZECH RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, SGEN, VT, HU, CZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005